

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A nonwoven fabric comprising:
fibers bonding to each other; and
5 a hygroscopic agent adhering to part of said fibers.

2. A nonwoven fabric according to claim 1,
wherein said hygroscopic agent comprises a substance
having a high moisture-retaining performance and porous
10 particles of silicon dioxide adhering to the periphery
of said substance.

3. A nonwoven fabric according to claim 1,
including a first layer made of fibers to which said
15 hygroscopic agent adheres and a second layer made of
fibers to which no hygroscopic agent adheres.

4. A hygroscopic member comprising:
a nonwoven fabric including a fiber layer made of
20 fibers bonding to each other and a hygroscopic agent
adhering to one surface of said fiber layer; and
an air-permeable sheet covering the entirety of
said nonwoven fabric.

5. A hygroscopic member according to claim 4,
wherein said hygroscopic agent comprises a substance
having a high moisture-retaining performance and porous

particles adhering to the periphery of said substance.

6. A method for producing a nonwoven fabric by bonding fibers to each other, comprising the steps of:

5 supplying raw material of said fibers to a first centrifugal separator;

ejecting fibers from said first centrifugal separator by a centrifugal force; and

10 supplying a hygroscopic agent onto said fibers ejected from said first centrifugal separator so that said hygroscopic agent adheres to at least part of said fibers.

7. A method for producing a nonwoven fabric
15 according to claim 6, wherein a second centrifugal separator is disposed on a lateral side of said first centrifugal separator and wherein a belt mechanism including a belt driven to circulate is disposed below said first and second centrifugal separators, said
20 method further comprising the steps of:

forming, on said belt, a first layer of said fibers ejected from said first centrifugal separator, said hygroscopic agent adhering to at least part of said fibers; and

25 ejecting fibers from said second centrifugal separator by a centrifugal force to form a second layer made only of the fibers on said first layer.

8. A method for producing a nonwoven fabric by bonding fibers to each other, comprising the steps of:

(a) supplying raw material of fibers to a
5 centrifugal separator;

(b) ejecting fibers from said centrifugal separator by a centrifugal force and forming a fiber layer by bonding said ejected fibers to each other; and

(c) adhering a hygroscopic agent to said fiber
10 layer.

9. A method for producing a nonwoven fabric according to claim 8, wherein said step (c) includes the steps of:

15 heating said fiber layer; and

supplying said hygroscopic agent onto said heated fiber layer.

10. A method for producing a nonwoven fabric
20 according to claim 8, further comprising a step of:

(d) covering the entirety of said fiber layer to which said hygroscopic agent adheres with an air-permeable sheet.

25 11. A method for producing a nonwoven fabric according to claim 10, wherein said step (d) includes the steps of:

supplying said air-permeable sheet above and below
said fiber layer to which said hygroscopic agent
adheres; and

cutting said fiber layer to which said hygroscopic
5 agent adheres to a desired number of pieces having a
desired size and simultaneously therewith, covering
each of said pieces with said air-permeable sheet.

12. An apparatus for producing a nonwoven fabric
10 by bonding fibers to each other, comprising:

a raw material supplying means for supplying raw
material of said fibers;

a first centrifugal separator receiving said raw
material from said raw material supplying means and
15 ejecting said fibers by a centrifugal force;

a hygroscopic agent supplying means in said first
centrifugal separator for supplying a hygroscopic agent
onto said ejected fibers; and

a belt mechanism driven to circulate below said
20 first centrifugal separator.

13. An apparatus for producing a nonwoven fabric
according to claim 12, further comprising a second
centrifugal separator capable of ejecting fibers by a
25 centrifugal force, said second centrifugal separator
being disposed on the lateral side of said first
centrifugal separator and above said belt mechanism.

14. An apparatus for producing a nonwoven fabric by bonding fibers to each other, comprising:

5 a raw material supplying means for supplying raw material of fibers;

a centrifugal separator receiving said raw material from said raw material supplying means and ejecting said fibers by a centrifugal force;

10 a belt mechanism driven to circulate below said first centrifugal separator;

a heating means disposed downstream from said centrifugal separator for heating a fiber layer formed on said belt; and

15 a hygroscopic agent supplying means disposed downstream from said heating means for supplying a hygroscopic agent onto said fiber layer heated by said heating means.

15. An apparatus for producing a nonwoven fabric according to claim 14, further comprising:

20 a sheet supplying means for supplying an air-permeable sheet above and below said fiber layer to which said hygroscopic agent adheres; and

25 a thermo-compressive bonding and cutting means for cutting said fiber layer to which said hygroscopic agent adheres to a desired number of pieces having a desired size and simultaneously therewith, capable of covering

each of said pieces with said air-permeable sheet.

16. An organic electroluminescence display comprising:

5 a substrate;

a plurality of organic compound layers formed on said substrate; and

a hygroscopic member for absorbing and retaining moisture, said hygroscopic member including a nonwoven
10 fabric made of fibers bonding to each other and a hygroscopic agent adhering to part of said fibers.

17. An organic electroluminescence display according to claim 16, wherein said nonwoven fabric
15 includes a fiber layer made of said fibers bonding to each other and a hygroscopic agent adhering to one surface of said fiber layer, and wherein the entirety of said nonwoven fabric is covered with an air-permeable sheet.